

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 11 (Previously added): A fire-insulating wall covering, comprising a cured mixture of:

- i) about 5 to about 20 % by weight mineralized wood fibre;
- ii) about 20 to about 60 % by weight sand with an SiO₂ content of less than about 5 % by weight and a greywacke content of at least about 30% by weight ; and
- iii) about 20 to about 50 % by weight cement.

Claim 12 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 11, containing about 7 to about 15 % by weight- mineralized wood fibre.

Claim 13 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 12, containing 10-15% by weight mineralized wood fibre.

Claim 14 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 12, containing about 35 to about 50% by weight sand.

Claim 15 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 14, wherein the sand has an SiO₂ content less than about 2.5% by weight.

Claim 16 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 15, wherein the sand has an SiO₂ content less than 2% by weight.

Claim 17 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 15, wherein the sand contains at least about 40% by weight greywacke.

Claim 18 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 17, wherein the sand contains at least 50% by weight greywacke.

Claim 19 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 17, containing about 25 to about 40 % by weight cement.

Claim 20 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 19, containing:

- i) about 10 to about 15 % by weight mineralized wood fibre;
- ii) about 35 to about 50 % by weight sand with an SiO₂ content less than about 2% by weight and a greywacke content greater than about 50% by weight; and
- iii) about 25 to about 40 % by weight cement.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A wall covering as claimed in claim 20, wherein the cement is low-chromate, insofar as the cement contains levels of water soluble chromates that are substantially at less than about 2 ppm.

Claim 22 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 21, containing about 0.1 to about 1 % by weight-impregnating agent.

Claim 23 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 22, containing 0.1-0.5% by weight impregnating agent.

Claim 24 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 21, containing about 30 to about 500 grams per m² impregnating agent.

Claim 25 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 24, containing 100-250 grams per m² impregnating agent.

Claim 26 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 11, containing about 35 to about 50 % by weight sand.

Claim 27 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 11, wherein the sand has an SiO₂ content less than about 2.5% by weight.

Claim 28 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 27, wherein the sand has an SiO₂ content less than 2% by weight.

Claim 29 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 11, wherein the sand contains at least about 40% by weight greywacke.

Claim 30 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 29, wherein the sand contains at least 50% by weight greywacke.

Claim 31 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 11, containing about 25 to about 40 % by weight cement.

Claim 32 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 11, containing:

- i) about 10 to about 15 % by weight mineralized wood fibre;
- ii) about 35 to about 50 % by weight sand with an SiO_2 content less than about 2% by weight and a greywacke content greater than about 50% by weight; and
- iii) about 25 to about 40 % by weight cement.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): A wall covering as claimed in claim 11, wherein the cement is low-chromate, insofar as the cement contains levels of water soluble chromates that are substantially at less than about 2 ppm.

Claim 34 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 11, containing about 0.1 to about 1% by weight impregnating agent.

Claim 35 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 34, containing 0.1-0.5% by weight impregnating agent.

Claim 36 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 11, containing about 30 to about 500 grams per m² impregnating agent.

Claim 37 (Previously added): A wall covering as claimed in claim 36, containing 100-250 grams per m² impregnating agent.

Claim 38 (Currently amended): A method of preparing a fire-insulating wall covering comprising a cured mixture of:

- i) about 5 to about 20 % by weight mineralized wood fibre;
- ii) about 20 to about 60 % by weight sand with an SiO₂ content of less than about 5% by weight and a greywacke content of at least about 30% by weight ; and
- iii) about 20 to about 50 % by weight cement;

wherein relative to the a cured weight of the mixture are mixed about 5 to about 20 % by weight mineralized wood fibre, about ~~30~~ 20 to about 60 % by weight sand with an SiO₂ content less than about 5% by weight and a greywacke content of at least about 30% by weight, and about 20 to about 50 % by weight cement, and about 10 to about 30 % by weight water is then added, whereafter the mixture is cured to form the fire-insulating wall covering.